

Social Studies Update

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Check Out:

- [The C3 Framework for Social Studies State Standards](#)
- [Social Studies "Agora" Site](#)
-Click on social studies
- [Social Studies Google Calendar](#)
- [Iowa Social Studies on Twitter](#)
- [Iowa Social Studies on Pinterest](#)
- [Iowa Social Studies on Diigo](#)
- [Iowa Department of Education Social Studies Page](#)

Questions?

Contact Stefanie Wager, social studies consultant at the Iowa Department of Education, at stefanie.wager@iowa.gov or 515-725-7842

New Iowa Core Website- What It Means for Social Studies Teachers

In early October, the Iowa Department of Education launched a new Iowa Core website. The website, www.iowacore.gov, has four main sections.

• Explore the Core

This section allows teachers to see the Iowa Core in Social Studies by grade level, search by keyword, or view as a PDF.

• Educator Resources

The Educator Resources section includes links to the [Iowa Learns](#) repository of resources. This repository has over 8,000 resources in it, and over 800 of those

resources are related to social studies.

In addition, the educator resources section includes instructional, implementation and assessment guidance for teachers and districts.

• Parents and Community Resources

This section includes fact sheets about the Iowa Core as well as grade level parent guides. These parent guides are provided at each grade level K-8, and at the high school level. Each guide includes an overview of the Iowa

Core in English/Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies, and 21st Century Skills, a sample of what your child may be learning, and information about what parents can do to support their child's learning at home.

• Iowa Core Spotlight

This section highlights Iowa educators and stakeholders and provides a space to shine a light on what the Iowa Core means to them.

The White House for Kids Book Discussion

Have you ever wondered what it's like to live and work in the most important house in the country, or what it's like to grow up there? Now, with *The White House for Kids* as your guide, you can explore the Executive Mansion for yourself. This intriguing, in-depth history of the White House explains its role as a home, an office, and a powerful symbol of the United States and tells both famous and little-known sto-

ries about some of the surprising – and sometimes surprisingly ordinary – things that go on there. Learn which president hosted T-ball games on the White House lawn; which mischievous first son was scolded for shooting spitballs at a portrait of President Andrew Jackson; which first daughter held her high school prom in the famous mansion; which first lady hung her laundry to dry in the East Room; where first families go

to work, entertain, relax, and have fun; how the White House staff feels to see beloved presidential families come and go; and much more. Cross-curricular activities allow readers to walk in the footsteps of presidents and those around them. **Come to the State Historical Building (600 E. Locust St Des Moines) Saturday, November 8th from 10AM- Noon to hear directly from the author of The White House for Kids. Check out the flyer [here](#).**

Social Studies News

Nationwide Civics Survey

The Annenberg Public Policy Center released the results of a nationwide survey of American adults. The survey revealed that most adults struggle to answer basic questions about American government. See the full report [here](#).

- Only 36% could name all three branches of govt.
- 35% could not name a single branch of govt.
- More than half did not know which party controls the House and Senate.

Study Reveals that Technology May Inhibit Civic Discourse Skills

A recent study by the University of California, Los Angeles reveals that the increase in “screen” time for young people may be inhibiting their ability to recognize emotions in others. The study revealed that those who went five days without exposure to technology were significantly better at reading human emotions than those who had regular access. Read a summary of the study [here](#).

West Central Valley Teacher Brings Red Paperclip Project to Life

Leslie Wiles, a teacher at West Central Valley Middle School in Redfield attended the 2014 ICSS conference. There, she learned about the Red Paperclip Bartering Project and decided to try it out with her students.

Check out her class participating. Want to find out more about the project? Go [here](#).



Social Studies Resources

Fred Korematsu Teaching Kit

Fred Korematsu is remembered for his courageous fight against Japanese American internment which led to the 1944 Supreme Court case, *Korematsu v. United States*. The Korematsu Institute wants to send you a FREE teaching kit that helps teachers instruct on the life of Fred Korematsu and the overall Japanese American internment experience during WWII. Request your free kit [here](#).

New York Times Learning Network

Did you know The New York Times Learning Network has an entire webpage devoted exclusively to social studies content? The page contains relevant news stories, lesson plans, words of the day, news quizzes, and teacher resources. Check it out by going [here](#).

World Memory Project

The World Memory Project is a joint project between the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and Ancestry.com. Millions of documents exist containing details about victims of the Holocaust and the Nazi persecution of them. The Project aims to make these records searchable and open so that anyone can access them at any time. You can access the project website [here](#).

“For the dead and the living, we must bear witness.”

-Elie Wiesel, speaking about the Holocaust

40 Maps that Explain the Middle East

Want to explore the history of the Middle East through maps? Want to see the changing political borders and demographics? Check out this resource. It provides over 40 maps that explain the Middle East from the fertile crescent to modern day. Check it out [here](#).

YouTube Social Studies Channels

- [Crash Course World & US History](#)
- [Hip Hughes History](#)
- [Timelines.tv](#)
- [Yale Courses](#)
- [History Teachers](#)
- [Smithsonian](#)

New Resources from Teaching Tolerance

Teaching Tolerance has released an anti-bias framework that provides a road map for anti-bias education at every grade level. Check it out at www.tolerance.org/anti-bias-framework. In addition, you can request a copy of their new video, One Person: One Vote [here](#).

Professional Development Opportunities

Library of Congress Recorded Webinars

The Library of Congress is putting on a series of webinars each month during the 2014-2015 school year. They are also recording the webinars in case you can't make it in person. Check out future webinars and view recordings of past webinars [here](#).

Teaching Integrated Iowa Core Using Authentic Artifacts

Buena Vista University is putting on a two day workshop entitled Understanding Middle Eastern Culture Workshop: Teaching Integrated Iowa Core Standards Using Authentic Artifacts. The workshop will take place January 15-16 at the Buena Vista campus in Storm Lake. The workshop is designed for social studies and ELA teachers. All expenses will be paid including housing, meals, books, and license renewal credit. For more information go [here](#).

Join the ASCD Social Studies Virtual Learning Network

ASCD has created online virtual learning networks in English Language Arts, Science, Math, and Social Studies. These networks help educators connect with others virtually through webinars and social media. The webinars are offered almost monthly and they are all recorded. Check out the 2014-2015 webinars [here](#). See the 2013-2014 webinars [here](#).

Social Studies Awards, Grants, and Competitions

James Madison Fellowship

The James Madison Fellowship is recognized as one of the most prestigious awards for secondary teachers. It offers up to \$24,000 to secondary govt. and history teachers to earn a Master's degree in fields related to the U.S. Constitution. For more information or to apply check out www.jamesmadison.gov.

Robert F. Kennedy Student Video Contest

Looking for a way to help your students learn about how to create change? Consider the Spark Truth to Power Video Contest. Students create a 3-5 minute video that demonstrates independence, content knowledge and storytelling around a social issue. Go [here](#) for more information.

National History Teacher of the Year

Know a great history teacher? If so, please consider nominating them for Iowa History Teacher of the Year Award. By winning this award, it qualifies the candidate to be put up for the National History Teacher of the Year Award. Go [here](#) to nominate or for more information.

*"There are those
who look at things
the way they are,
and ask why... I
dream of things
that never were,
and ask why not?"*
-Robert F. Kennedy

November Observance Days

Veteran's Day

- Library of Congress Veteran's Day Project [web-site](#) and [recorded webinar](#)
- [Take a Vet to School Day](#)
- Teaching History Veteran's Day [Resources](#)

- [Thank a Vet Postcards](#)
- History Channel Veteran's Day [Resources](#)
- National Archives Veteran's Day [Resources](#)

Native American Heritage Month

For background on Native American Heritage Month go [here](#).

- Smithsonian Education [Resources](#)
- First Nations [Resources](#)